

political status options. Our approval of the \$2.5 Million request evidences our expectation that the White House will provide realistic options upon which to base a future status referendum. It can only responsibly allocate the funds for the consideration of options that are realistic.

Puerto Rican Americans have contributed to this Nation for over 102 years, both in peace and in wartime, and deserve the opportunity to resolve the uncertainty regarding their political status based on clearly defined status options consistent with the Constitution and U.S. law and with the support of Congress. This legislation along with realistic status options to be provided by the Administration will help us honor their contributions by moving the process of self-determination forward towards the establishment of a permanent and final political status for Puerto Rico.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. THELMA F. RIVERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Thelma F. Rivers of Timmonsville, South Carolina, prior to the celebration of her 115th birthday.

Mrs. Rivers was born on November 3, 1885, in Darlington, South Carolina, to a mother and father who were born into slavery. This makes her one of the few people to have ever lived to experience three centuries of American history. Her sharp memory is treasured by all. When Mrs. Rivers reminisces about her youth, she remembers picking two bales of cotton every day and sewing quilts with tobacco thread.

Remarkably, Mrs. Rivers remains independent and capable despite her years. She is on no medication, and has no use for eyeglasses, hearing aids, or canes. Living alone until last year, she even chopped her own wood, being that she chose to remain living in a home still furnished with a wood burning stove. Many of her younger counterparts can't even boast of this type of health and autonomy.

Mrs. Rivers has been blessed with several children, nearly 100 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren, and the list continues. She attributes her long life to her faith in God and allowing Him to "hold her hand while she runs this race."

Mrs. Rivers has won no gold medals or Nobel prizes, but today, having lived through 115 years is a tremendous and commendable achievement. It is a testament to faith, strength, love, and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to this miraculous South Carolinian upon the celebration of her birthday.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE CENTENNIAL OF SYMPHONY HALL IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to one

of America's most historic crown jewels, Symphony Hall, as it celebrates its centennial and its many contributions to Boston, the Nation and the world.

The Hall was the brainchild of "Major" Henry Lee Higginson, founder of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO). In the early 1890s, Higginson made the decision to build Symphony Hall due to the fact that the Boston Music Hall was no longer meeting the needs of the BSO and its patrons.

Major Higginson chose Charles Follen McKim of the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White as the architect of the Hall. At that time, McKim was the most prominent architect in the United States. However, one of the most influential persons involved in the project was a Harvard physicist by the name of Wallace Clement Sabine. Mr. Sabine, the founder of the science of architectural acoustics, served as acoustical consultant during the construction of the Hall. As a result of Sabine's input, Symphony Hall became the first concert hall designed with the aid of modern acoustical science, and today is ranked among the three best acoustical concert halls in the world.

Ground breaking on the Hall took place on June 12, 1899 and it opened its doors on October 15, 1900. Ever since its opening, Symphony Hall has played a major role in new music activity. It has been the scene of more than 250 musical world premiers, including major works by Samuel Barber, Aaron Copeland, George Gershwin, and John Williams.

Though it is principal home of the Boston Symphony and the Boston Pops orchestras, other performing artists use it 60–70 times a year. It is also interesting to note that for many years Symphony Hall was the largest public building in Boston and served as the city's major civic gathering place. Among such civic events were: the First Annual Automobile Show of the Boston Automobile Dealers' Association (1901); a debate on American participation in the League of Nations, advocated by Harvard President A. Lawrence Lowell and opposed by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (1919); and all the inaugurations of Boston's Mayor James Michael Curley.

The Hall has regular radio and television broadcasts of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops. The first radio broadcast took place on January 23, 1926, with the first national radio broadcast took place on October 4, 1930 in honor of the BSO's 50th anniversary. Television broadcasts from Symphony Hall began in 1963 and in 1969 the program Evening at Pops was launched in co-operation with WGBH. This program has gone on to become the second longest-running series on public television, after Sesame Street.

Today, Symphony Hall continues to have a profound impact on the world of music and maintains its distinction as one of the world's finest concert halls. The Department of the Interior recently paid fitting tribute to Symphony Hall's national and historic significance by designating it a National Historic Landmark. I have no doubt that Symphony Hall will continue to be a strong influence in the world of music for the next century and I want to extend my heart-felt congratulations to all those persons that have been entrusted with maintaining the legacy of Symphony Hall. So I close with wishing Symphony Hall a happy birthday and the good fortune of celebrating at least another one hundred.

RECENT VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, after learning this morning about the latest violence in Israel. News reports indicate that two Israeli reserve soldiers were killed in the West Bank town of Ramallah. The Israeli soldiers were detained by the Palestinian police after they inadvertently made a wrong turn down a street, and were taken to a police station. Apparently a mob of Palestinians broke into the police station, slaughtered the Israeli soldiers, and paraded their bodies through the streets.

I call on Mr. Arafat to live up to his obligations under the Oslo Accords, and to maintain public order and calm in the West Bank through a vigorous use of the Palestinian police force. Let us remember that the Palestinians now fully control over 40% of the West Bank and Gaza, with over 95% of the Palestinian population under the civil administration of the Palestinian Authority. As the Palestinians gain greater authority and control over their domestic affairs, they also must shoulder the additional security responsibilities that come hand-in-hand with territorial control. The Palestinians must ensure the safety of both Israelis and Palestinians within their areas of control.

Mr. Arafat has personally assumed responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure the maintenance of peace, law, and order in the West Bank. Just a few days ago Mr. Arafat allowed a Palestinian mob to destroy Joseph's Tomb, a Jewish holy site in the West Bank, just hours after Israeli troops withdrew and allowed the Palestinian police to take control.

Mr. Speaker, each of us prays for peace in the Middle East. The only way to achieve peace is for the Palestinian leaders to not only condemn but to take steps to stop terrorism and violence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON SECURITY IN AN OPEN SOCIETY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the United States Commission on Security in an Open Society Act, expressing an idea I have been working on for two years. Before our eyes, parts of our open society are gradually being closed down because of fear of terrorism. This act would begin a systematic response that takes full account of the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threat terrorism poses.

The bill I introduce today is being simultaneously introduced by the gentleman from New York, Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, who is retiring this year. His unique career, as the Senate's intellectual leader, and as architect of the revival of Pennsylvania Avenue and